

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final action mailed November 27, 2007, claims 1 – 17, 19 – 24, and 26 were rejected. In response Applicants propose amending claim 15. Additionally, Applicants have canceled claim 17. Applicants respectfully request that the amendment to claim 15 be entered to put the claims in condition for allowance or to put the claims in better condition for appeal. Applicants hereby requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims and the below-provided remarks.

### Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 – 17, 19 – 24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as being anticipated by Erba et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,292,233, hereinafter Erba).

#### Claim 1

Claim 1 recites:

*“A standby circuit for an electrical device having  
one or more signal inputs and  
a control unit and  
a control output for the control of a power supply unit,  
in which the control unit initiates an activation procedure on the  
occurrence of a predefined activation event at the signal input,  
in which a signal to switch on a power supply unit is generated at the  
control output;  
further comprising a programming interface for programming the  
control unit, wherein the programming determines how the control unit responds  
to inputs from the one or more signal inputs.”* (emphasis added)

That is, the standby circuit has a programming interface for programming the control unit.

Applicants assert that Erba does not disclose a standby circuit that has a programming interface as recited in claim 1. Although Erba discloses a local key interface (38), an infrared receiver (40), and a zero crossing interface (42) for providing inputs to the microcontroller unit (32), Erba does not disclose that the standby circuit has an interface that is used to program the microcontroller unit (32) as recited in claim 1.

The Final action cites Erba's teaching of a programmable microcontroller as disclosing a programming interface as recited in claim 1. With regard to the programmable microcontroller (32), Erba simply discloses that "[t]he microcontroller (32) is appropriately programmed." (col. 3, lines 13 – 14. Even though Erba discloses that the programmable microcontroller (32) is appropriately programmed, nowhere does Erba disclose that the controller board (14) includes a programming interface for programming the microcontroller (32) once it is installed into the controller board (14). Because the controller board (14) of Erba does not include a programming interface, Applicants assert that the microcontroller is most likely programmed before the microcontroller is installed into the controller board. Just because the microcontroller (32) is programmable does not necessarily mean that the standby circuit includes a programming interface for programming the microcontroller (32).

Because Erba does not disclose every limitation of claim 1, Applicants assert that claim 1 is not anticipated by Erba.

#### Independent Claim 15

Claim 15 has been amended to particularly point out that once the power supply unit is switched off, it draws no further electrical energy from an external electrical energy source and to particularly point out that the energy store supplies electrical energy to the standby circuit even while the power supply unit is switched off and draws no further electrical energy from an external electrical energy source. Support for this amendment is found in Applicants' specification at, for example, paragraphs [0073]. As amended, claim 15 recites:

"An electrical device with  
one or more functional units  
and a power supply unit for connection to a power supply and for feeding  
the functional units with electrical energy, characterized in that  
the device is switchable into a power-down mode, in which the power  
supply unit is switched off and *draws no further electrical energy from an  
external electrical energy source*, while a standby circuit remains active, which  
switches on the power supply unit of the device at the occurrence of an activation  
event,  
an energy store configured to supply stored electrical energy to the  
standby circuit *while the power supply unit is switched off and draws no further  
electrical energy from an external electrical energy source.*" (emphasis added)

Applicants assert that Erba does not disclose an energy store as recited in amended claim 15. Erba does disclose a power supply stage (36). However, Erba does not disclose that the power supply stage (36) is ever “switched off and draws no further electrical energy from an external electrical energy source” as recited in amended claim 15. In fact, Erba does not disclose any ability to isolate the power supply stage (36) from the electrical plug (26) as shown in Fig. 2 of Erba. Further, Erba does not disclose an energy store that supplies stored electrical energy to the standby circuit while the power supply unit is switched off and draws no further electrical energy from an external electrical energy source. Because Erba does not disclose every limitation of amended claim 15, Applicants assert that claim 15 is not anticipated by Erba.

#### Dependent claim 20

Dependent claim 20 recites switching the device to power-up mode after a predetermined period of time to charge the energy store. Because Erba does not disclose an energy store as recited in claim 15, it follows that Erba does not disclose a technique for managing the recharging of the energy store. Further, Applicants have found no mention, in Erba at col. 3, lines 35+, of switching the device to power-up mode after a predetermined period of time to charge the energy store.

Additionally, claim 20 recites “while the period of time is calculated so that the rechargeable element supplies sufficient electrical energy for the operation of the standby circuit for this period of time.” Erba makes no mention of criteria for “calculating” a predetermined time for switching the controller board (14) back to power-up mode. Specifically, Erba makes no mention of a calculation that relates to the amount of time that a rechargeable element can supply sufficient electrical energy to a standby circuit.

Because Erba does not disclose every limitation of claim 20, Applicants assert that claim 20 is not anticipated by Erba.

#### Dependent claim 21

Dependent claim 21 recites “a circuit for monitoring the remaining content of the energy store.” Applicants have found no mention of an energy store as recited in claim 15 and no mention of “a circuit for monitoring the remaining content of the energy store”

as recited in claim 21. In particular, Applicants have found no mention, in Erba at col. 3, lines 35+, of “a circuit for monitoring the remaining content of the energy store.” Although the Final action cites “col. 3, lines 35+” of Erba, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point to a more specific set of lines in Erba so that the specific references can be directly addressed.

#### Independent Claim 22

Independent claim 22 recites “*bi-directional data exchange occurs between the standby circuit and the one or more functional units.*” In the Final action, the above-identified limitation of claim 22 was rejected in view of “photo-coupler 34 of Figs. 1 – 3 and related disclosure,” Final action, page 4, item 19. Applicants assert that the photocoupler (34) of Erba does not disclose the physical structure for bi-direction data exchange and therefore does not disclose “*bi-directional data exchange occurs between the standby circuit and the one or more functional units*” as recited in claim 22.

Erba discloses unidirectional communication from the microcontroller unit (32) to the main microcontroller unit (18) of the TV chassis (12). In particular, Applicants point to the unidirectional arrows, in Fig. 2 of Erba, which point from the MCU (32) to the photocouplers (34) and then to the TV chassis (12). Additionally, Erba discloses at col. 3, lines 23 – 25, “the photocoupler 34 is employed to transmit the control data from the microcontroller 32 to the main microcontroller unit (18)” (emphasis added) and at col. 3, lines 52 – 54 “the microcontroller...transmits a control code corresponding to the command to the main microcontroller unit (18) via the photocoupler 34.” (emphasis added) Further, Erba discloses that the photocoupler has “two output pins” but no input for receiving communications from the main microcontroller unit (18) of the TV chassis (12).

In sum, although Erba discloses unidirectional communication from the MCU (32) to the photocouplers (34) and then to the TV chassis (12), Erba does not disclose the structure to support bi-directional data exchange as recited in claim 22. Because Erba does not disclose every limitation of claim 22, Applicants assert that claim 22 is not anticipated by Erba.

#### Independent Claim 26

Independent claim 26 recites an electrical device that includes “a data bus that enables bi-directional data communications between the standby circuit and one or more of the functional units.” As described above with reference to Fig. 22, Erba discloses unidirectional communication from the microcontroller unit (32) to the main microcontroller unit (18) of the TV chassis (12), see Fig. 2. Although Erba discloses unidirectional communication from the microcontroller unit (32) to the main microcontroller unit (18) of the TV chassis (12), Erba does not disclose a data bus that enables bi-directional data communications as recited in claim 26. Because Erba does not disclose every limitation of claim 26, Applicants assert that claim 26 is not anticipated by Erba.

#### Dependent Claims 2 – 14, 16, 19 – 21, 23, and 24

Claims 2 – 14 are dependent on claim 1, claims 16, and 19 – 21 are dependent on claim 15, and claims 23 and 24 are dependent on claim 22. Applicants assert that these claims are allowable at least based on an allowable base claim.

## CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-3444** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-3444** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

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